



Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

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sy-li \sɪˈleɪ-n, -l/ **syllis** [Susu sil. lit., elephant] (1974) : the monetary unit of Guinea from 1972 to 1980
syll-la-bary \sɪˈlɑ-bər-ē-n, pl. **bar-ies** [NL *syllabarium*, fr. I. *syllaba*, -syllable] (1586) : a table or listing of syllables; *spec'd* : a series or set of written characters each one of which is used to represent a syllable or set of syllables
syll-lab-ic \sɪˈlɑ-bɪk/ **adj** [LL *syllabicus*, fr. Gk *syllabikos*, fr. *syllabē*, -syllable] (1728) 1 : constituting a syllable or the nucleus of a syllable 2 : not accompanied in the same syllable by a vowel (a ~ consonant) 3 : having vowel quality more prominent than that of another vowel in the syllable (the first vowel of a falling diphthong, as /oɪ/ in /oɪv/, is ~) 4 : of, relating to, or denoting syllables (~ accent) 5 : characterizing by distinct enunciation or separation of syllables 6 : of, relating to, or constituting a type of verse distinguished primarily by count of syllables rather than by rhythmical arrangement of accents or quantities
syll-lab-ic-al-ly \sɪˈlɑ-bɪk-əl-ē/ **adv**
syll-lab-ic n (1880) : a syllabic character or sound
syll-lab-i-cate \sɪˈlɑ-bɪ-kət/ **vt** -cat-ed; -cat-ing (ca. 1654) : SYLLABIFY
syll-lab-i-ca-tion \sɪˈlɑ-bɪ-kə-shən/ n (1516) : the act, process, or method of forming or dividing words into syllables
syll-lab-i-ci-ty \sɪˈlɑ-bɪ-si-tē/ n (1933) : the state of being or the power of forming a syllable
syll-lab-i-fi-ca-tion \sɪˈlɑ-bɪ-fə-kə-shən/ n (1838) : SYLLABICATION
syll-lab-i-fy \sɪˈlɑ-bɪ-faɪ/ **vt** -fied; -fy-ing [L *syllaba* syllable] (ca. 1859) : to form or divide into syllables
syll-la-bile \sɪˈlɑ-bəl/ [ME, fr. MF *syllabe*, fr. I. *syllaba*, fr. Gk *syllabē*, fr. *syllambainein* to gather together, fr. *syn-* = *lambainein* to take ~ more at [ATCH] (14c) 1 : a unit of spoken language that is next bigger than a syllable sound and consists of one or more vowel sounds alone or of a syllable consonant alone or of either with one or more consonant sounds preceding or following 2 : one or more letters (as *sy*, *la*, and *ble*) in a word (as *syll-la-bile*) used, set off from the rest of the word by a centered dot or a hyphen and roughly corresponding to the syllables of spoken language and treated as helps to pronunciation or as guides to placing hyphens at the end of a line 3 : the smallest conceivable expression or unit of something : JOT 4 : SULLA SYLLABLES
syll-la-bly **vt** **syll-la-bled**; **syll-la-bling** \sɪˈlɑ-bliŋ/ (1516) 1 : to give a number or arrangement of syllables to (a word or verse) 2 : to express or utter in or as if in syllables
syll-la-bub \sɪˈlɑ-bəb/ n [origin unknown] (ca. 1537) 1 : a drink made by curdling milk or cream with an acid beverage (as wine or cider) 2 : a sweetened drink or topping made of milk or cream beaten with wine or liquor and sometimes further thickened with gelatin and sugar as a dessert
syll-la-bus \sɪˈlɑ-bəs/ **pl** -i, -bi-, -bē or -bus-es [LL alter. of I. *sillybus* label for a book, fr. Gk *sillybos*] (ca. 1636) 1 : a summary outline of a discourse, treatise, or course of study or of examination requirements 2 : HEADNOTE
syll-lep-sis \sɪˈlep-səs/ **n** **pl** -lep-ses \sɪˈlez/ [L, fr. Gk *syllēpsis*, fr. *syllambainein*] (ca. 1550) 1 : the use of a word to modify or govern syntactically two or sometimes more words with only one of which it formally agrees in gender, number, or case 2 : the use of a word in the same grammatical relation to two adjacent words in the context with one literal and the other metaphorical in sense — **syll-lep-tic** \sɪˈlep-tɪk/ **adj**
syll-lo-gism \sɪˈlɑ-ji-zəm/ [MF *syllogisme*, fr. MF, fr. L *syllogismus* fr. Gk *syllogismos*, fr. *sylogizesthai* to syllogize, fr. *syn-* + *logizesthai* to calculate, fr. *logos* reckoning, word — more at LEGEND] (14c) 1 : a minor premise or the second of a formal argument consisting of a major and a minor premise and a conclusion (as in "every virtue is laudable; kindness is a virtue, therefore kindness is laudable") 2 : a subtle, specious, or crafty argument 3 : deductive reasoning — **syll-lo-gis-tic** \sɪˈlɑ-ji-stɪk/ **adj** — **syll-lo-gis-tic-al-ly** \sɪˈlɑ-ji-stɪk-əl-ē/ **adv**
syll-lo-gist \sɪˈlɑ-ji-st/ n (1799) : one who applies or is skilled in syllogistic reasoning
syll-lo-gize \sɪˈlɑ-ji-z/ **vb** -gized; -giz-ing [ME *sylogysen*, fr. LL *syllogizare*, fr. Gk *syllogizesthai*] **vt** (151c) : to reason by means of syllogisms ~ **vt** : to deduce by syllogism (~s moral laws)
sylyph \sɪlf/ [NL *Sylphus*] (1657) 1 : an elemental being in the theory of Paracelsus that inhabits air 2 : a slender graceful woman or girl — **sylyph-like** \sɪlf-lik/ **adj**
sylyph-id \sɪlf-ɪd/ n (1680) : a young or diminutive sylph
sylyva, silviculture **var** of SILVA, SILVICULTURE
sylyvan \sɪlvən/ n (1565) : one that frequents groves or woods
sylyvan **adj** [ML *silvanus*, *silvanus*, fr. L *silva*, *silva* wood] (ca. 1583) 1 : living or located in the woods or forest 2 : of, relating to, or characteristic of the woods or forest 3 : made, shaped, or formed of woods or trees 4 : abounding in woods, groves, or trees : WOODY
sylyva-nite \sɪlv-ə-nīt/ n [F *silvanite*, fr. NL *silvanium* tellurium, fr. Transylvania, region in Romania] (1796) : a mineral that is a gold silver telluride and often occurs in crystals resembling written characters
sylyvat-ic \sɪlv-ə-tɪk/ **adj** [L *silvaticus* of the woods, wild ~ more at SAVAGE] (1661) 1 : SYLVAN (~ rodents) 2 : occurring in or affecting wild animals (~ diseases)
syly-vite \sɪlv-ɪt/ **also** **syly-vine** \sɪˈvæn/ n [alter. of *sylyvine*, fr. F, fr. NL *adigestus* Sylvius digestive salt of Sylvius, fr. *Sylvius* latinized name of J.B. DuBois ? 1555 Fr. physician] (1868) : a mineral that is a natural potassium chloride and occurs in colorless cubes or crystalline masses
sym- ~ SYN.
sym-bi-ont \sɪm-bē-ənt/ n [Prob. fr. G, modif. of Gk *symbiōnt-*, *symbiōn*, prp. of *symbiōn*] (1887) : an organism living in symbiosis; *esp* : the smaller member of a symbiotic pair
sym-bi-ot-ic \sɪm-bē-ə-tɪk/ **pl** -bi-ot-ics \sɪˈsē/ [NL, fr. G *symbiōtēs*, fr. Gk *symbiōtēs* state of living together, fr. *symbiōn* to live together, fr. *symbios* living together, fr. *sym-* + *bios* life — more at QUICK] (1622) 1 : the living together in more or less intimate association or close union of two dissimilar organisms 2 : the intimate living together of two dissimilar organisms in a mutually beneficial relationship; *esp* : MUTUALISM 3 : a cooperative relationship (as between two groups or groups of people) ~ **sym-bi-ot-ic-ly** \sɪm-bē-ə-tɪk-əl-ē/ **adv** — **sym-bi-ot-ic-al-ly** \sɪm-bē-ə-tɪk-əl-ē/ **adv**

sym-bi-ote \ˈsɪm-bi-ot, -bi-ə/ *n* [Fr, It, Gk *sympiotēs* companion, fr. *sympioō* to live together] (ca. 1909): **SYMBIOT**

sym-bol \ˈsɪm-bəl/ *n* [in sense 1, fr. L *symbolum*, fr. LGk *symbolon*, fr. Gk. token, sign; in other senses fr. L *symbolum* token, sign, symbol fr. Gk. *symbolon*, lit., token of identity verified by comparing its other half, fr. *symbolleō* to throw together, compare, fr. *syn-* + *balloō* to throw... more at **DEVIL**] (15c) 1: an authoritative summary of faith or doctrine 2: CRUX 3: something that stands for or suggests something else; resemblance, esp. a visible sign of something invisible (the lion is a ~ of courage) 4: an arbitrary or conventional sign used in writing or printing relating to a particular field to represent operations, quantities, elements, relations, or qualities 5: an object or act representing something in the unconscious mind that has been repressed (phallic ~) 6: an act, sound, or object having cultural significance and the capacity to excite or objectify a response

symbol *vb* -boled or -bolled; -bol-ing or -bol-ling (1832): **SYMBOLIZE**

sym-bolic \ˈsɪm-bə-lik/ also **sym-bol-i-cal** \-li-kəl/ *adj* (1610) 1: using, employing, or exhibiting a symbol 2: consisting of or proceeding by means of symbols 3: of, relating to, or constituting a symbol 4: characterized by or terminating in symbols (~ thinking) 5: characterized by symbolism (a ~ dance) — **sym-bol-i-cal-ly** \-li-kəl-ē/ *adv*

symbolic logic *n* (1856): a science of developing and representing logical principles by means of a formalized system consisting of primitive symbols, combinations of these symbols, axioms, and rules of inference

symbol-ize *Brit var of* **SYMBOLIZE**

sym-bol-ism \ˈsɪm-bəl-iz-əm/ *n* (1654) 1: the art or practice of using symbols esp. by investing things with a symbolic meaning or by expressing the invisible or intangible by means of visible or sensuous representations: as **a**: artistic imitation or invention that is a method of revealing or suggesting immaterial, ideal, or otherwise intangible truth or states **b**: the use of conventional or traditional signs in the representation of divine beings and spirits 2: a system of symbols or representations

sym-bol-ist \ˈsɪm-bəl-ist/ *n* (1812) 1: one who employs symbols or symbolism 2: one skilled in the interpretation or explication of symbols 3: one of a group of writers and artists in France after 1880 reacting against realism, concerning themselves with general truths instead of particulars, exalting the metaphysical and the mysterious, and aiming to unify and blend the arts and the functions of the senses — **symbol-ist** *adj*

sym-bol-istic \ˈsɪm-bəl-ist-ik/ *adj* (ca. 1864): **SYMBOLIC**

sym-bol-i-za-tion \ˈsɪm-bəl-iz-ā-shən/ *n* (1603) 1: an act or instance of symbolizing 2: the human capacity to develop a system of meaningful symbols

sym-bol-ize \ˈsɪm-bəl-iz/ *vb* -ized; -iz-ing *vt* (1603) 1: to serve as a symbol of 2: to represent, express, or identify by a symbol ~ *vi*: to use symbols or symbolism — **sym-bol-ize-r** *n*

sym-bol-o-gy \ˈsɪm-bə-lə-jē/ *n*, *pl* -gies [symbol + -logy] (1840) 1: the art of expression by symbols 2: the study or interpretation of symbols 3: a system of symbols

sym-met-al-lism \sɪ-(m)ˈmɛ-trɪ-ə-ˈzəm/ *n* [*syn-* - *metallism* (as in *bimetallism*)] (ca. 1895): a system of coinage in which the unit of currency consists of a particular weight of an alloy of two or more metals

sym-met-ri-cal \sɪ-mɛ-trɪ-kəl/ or **sym-met-ric** \-trɪk/ *adj* (1751) 1: having, involving, or exhibiting symmetry 2: having corresponding points whose connecting lines are bisected by a given point or perpendicularly bisected by a given line or plane (~ curves) 3: **symmetric** 4: being such that the terms, or truths, or **symmetric** equations (R is a ~ relation if *aRb* implies *bRa*) 5: a: capable of division by a longitudinal plane into similar halves (~ plant parts) **b**: having the same number of members in each whorl of floral leaves (~ flower) 6: affecting corresponding parts simultaneously and similarly (~ rash) 7: exhibiting symmetry in a structural formula, esp.: being a derivative with groups substituted symmetrically in the molecule — **sym-met-ri-cal-ly** \-trɪ-kəl-ē/ *adv* — **sym-met-ri-cal-ness** \-kəl-nəs/ *n*

sym-metric group *n* (1897): a permutation group that is composed of all of the permutations of *n* things

sym-metric matrix *n* (ca. 1949): a matrix that is its own transpose

sym-met-rize \ˈsɪ-mɛ-trɪz/ *vt* -trized; -triz-ing (1796): to make symmetrical — **sym-met-riz-a-tion** \sɪ-mɛ-trɪz-ā-shən/ *n*

sym-met-ric \ˈsɪ-mɛ-trɪk/ *pl* -tries [L *symmetria*, fr. Gk, fr. *symmetria* symmetry, fr. *syn-* + *metron* measure — more at **MEASURE**] (1541) 1: balanced proportions; also: a quality of form arising from balanced proportions 2: the property of being symmetrical; esp.: correspondence in size, shape, and relative position of parts on opposite sides of a dividing line or median plane or about a center or axis — compare **BILATERAL SYMMETRY**, **RADIAL SYMMETRY** 3: a rigid motion of a geometric figure that determines a one-to-one mapping onto itself 4: the property of remaining invariant under certain changes (as of orientation in space, of the sign of the electric charge, of parity, or of the direction of time flow) — used of physical phenomena and of equations describing them

sympath- or **sympatho-** *comb form* [ISV, fr. *sympatheia*]: sympathetic nerve (**sympathetic**)

sym-pa-thet-ic or **sym-pa-thet-ic-ly** \ˈsɪm-pə-thet-ik/ *adj* (1900) 1: surgical interruption of sympathetic nerve pathways — **sym-pa-thet-ic-met-ized** \-mɛ-tɪz/ *adj*

sympa-thet-ic \ˈsɪm-pə-thet-ik/ *adj* [NL *sympatheticus*, fr. L *sympathia* sympathy] (1644) 1: existing or operating through an affinity, interdependence, or mutual association 2: **a**: not discordant or antagonistic **b**: appropriate to one's mood, inclinations, or disposition 3: marked by kindly or pleased appreciation 4: given to, marked by, or arising from sympathy, compassion, friendliness, and sensitivity to others' emotions (~ gesture) 5: favorably inclined : **APPROVING** (not ~ to the idea) 6: showing empathy **b**: arousing sympathy or compassion (~ role in the play) 7: **a**: of or relating to the sympathetic nervous system **b**: mediated by or acting on the sympathetic nerves 7: relating to musical tones produced by sympathetic vibrations

tion or to strings so tuned as to se
symp-a-thet-ic-al-ly /sɪm-pə-thet-ɪk-ə-lɪ/ *adv*
sympathetic *n* (1808) : a symph
NERVOUS SYSTEM
sympathetic *magic* *n* (1905) : mag
person or thing can be supernatural
object representing it
sympathetic nervous system *n* (ca
nervous system that contains chie
depress secretion, decrease the tone a
and increase heart rate — compare *ps*
sympathetic stroke *n* (1895) : **symp**
sympathetic vibration *n* (1898) : **symp**
the vibrations of exactly the same
symp-a-thin /sɪm-pə-thaɪn/ *n* [SV]
nephne) that is secreted by sym
chemical mediator
symp-a-thize chiefly *Brit var of symp*
symp-a-thize /sɪm-pə-thaɪz/ *v* **thiz**
keeping, accord, or harmony 2 : te
to : share in suffering or grief : com
ble; *also* : to express such sympathy
ally (~ with a proposal) — **symp-a**
symp-a-tho-lytic /sɪm-pə-thəʊ-lyt-ɪk/ *adj*
oppose the physiological results of s
sympathetic drugs — **sympat**
symp-a-tho-met-ic /sɪm-pə-thə-met-ɪk/ *adj*
lating sympathetic nervous action i
thomietic *n*
symp-a-thy /sɪm-pə-thə/ *n*, *pl* -thie-
fr. sympathēs having common feelin
feelings, emotion, experience — *mc*
affinity, association, or relationship —
whatever affects one similarly affects
susceptibility or a condition brought
in action or effect 2 **a** : inclination
or intellectual accord **b** : feeling
support (republican sympathies) 3
into or sharing the feelings or inter
mental state brought about by such 4
the correlation existing between
their vibrations being due to one ano
see ATTRACTION, PITY
sympathy strike *n* (1912) : a strike
rect grievance against their own em
aid *usu.* another group of workers on
symp-at-ric /sɪm-pə-trɪk/ *adj* [*syn* :
father — more at FATHER] (ca. 19)
specif : occupying the same rang
breeding (~ species) — compare
/sɪm-pə-trɪk-ə-lɪ/ *adv* — **symp-at-ry** /sɪm
symp-et-al-ous /sɪm-pet-ə-ləs/ *adj*
symp-et-aly /sɪ-pet-ə-lɪ/ *n*, *pl* -*ies*
symp-hon-ic /sɪm-pə-nɪk/ *adj* (1856
2 : relating to or having the form or
suggestive of a symphon
themes, or harmonious arrangement
/sɪm-pə-nɪk-ə-lɪ/ *adv*
symphonic poem *n* (1873) : an ext
for symphony orchestra *usu.* freer in
symp-ho-ni-ous /sɪm-pə-ne-əs/ *adj*
1 : HARMONIOUS — **symp-ho-ni-ous-ly**
symp-ho-nist /sɪm-pə-nɪst/ *n* (176
orchestra 2 : a composer of symph
symp-ho-ny /sɪ-ne/ *n*, *pl* -*nies* [MF *sy*
fr. Gk *symphonia*, *fr.* *symphōnos* conc
voice, sound — more at BAN] (15c)
3 : RITORNELLO 1 **b** : SINFONIA 1 **c**
sonata for symphony orchestra (2
organ) resembling such a symphony
source or harmony of color (as in
-CHESTRA **b** : symphony orchestra
harmonious complexity or variety *usu.*
symphony orchestra *n* (ca. 1881) :
and percussion that plays symphony
sym-phy-se-al /sɪm-pə-fə-se-əl/ *also*
[Gk *symphyseō*, *symphysis* symphysi
constituting a symphysis
sym-phy-sis /sɪm-pə-fə-sɪs/ *n*, *pl* -*ph*
growing together, *fr.* *symphyesthai* to
to make grow, bring forth — more at
or more or less movable articulation
plane of the body 2 : an articulat
connected by pads of fibrous cartilag
symp-ty- /sɪm-pə-də-ko/ *adj* [*fr.*
formed from secondary axes, *fr.* Gk
-PODIUM] (1875) : having an involv
main axis from successive secondary
symp-po-zi-arch /sɪm-pə-zə-ɪrk/ *n*
symposium + -archos -arch] (1603) :
sum
symp-po-zi-ast /sɪ-zə-ast-, -ast/ *n* [Gk *sy*
-posium, *fr.* *symposium*] (ca. 1656) : a c
symp-po-sium /sɪm-pə-zə-səm/ *also* -*zhi*
or -*alsium* [L, *fr.* Gk *symposium*, *fr.* *sy*
+ *pinein* to drink — more at POTABLE
(as after a banquet in ancient Greece
a social gathering in which there is
form, which which several spec
topic or on related topics — *compar*
opinions on a subject, *esp.* : one publi
SION
symp-tom /sɪm-pə-təm/ *n* [LL *symp*
tomat-, *sympnoma* happening, *anal*